The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1003 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1941 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 31, NO. 52

AFL Workers Heroic During Attack On Pearl Harbor, U. S. Reports

Workers On Wake Island Fought So Well Japs Thought Them Soldiers

Washington, D. C.—Labor will have special cause to remember Pearl Harbor because on the fateful morning of Dec. 7, when the treacherous Japanese rained sudden destruction from the skies on that Hawaiian base, thousands of courageous American Federation of Labor workers ignored danger, stayed on the job, and fought like heroes against the enemy.

This was attested to in an official report by the Navy Department which gave details for the first time of the bravery and exploits of the building trades and metal trades workers stationed at Pearl Harbor during the murderous raid.

But the glow of pride which all American Federation of Labor members felt on learning this news was tempered with grief over the fate of some 1,500 other workers who apparently were captured by the Japs after having fought side by side with the U. S. Marines for tortured days and nights on the lonely islands of Guam and Wake.

The Japanese paid an unwitting tribute to the fighting qualities of the workers at Wake Island when they claimed they had captured 1,400 American soldiers and marines on the island. The Navy insisted, however, that there were only 400 marines stationed on the island and the others captured must have been civilian workers. They fought so bravely that the Japs mistook them for soldiers.

In its official report on the Pearl Harbor raid, the Navy said that one crew of workmen, engaged in unloading anti-aircraft guns from a flatcar alongside a ship that had been overhauled, stuck to their work during the rail. The job that normally would take many hours was accomplished while the raid was in progress. The battery officer of the ship said several of the workers volunteered to help load the guns during the firing.

A comment of one officer in describing the heroism of these men said:

"Six men did work in two hours that ordinarily would take twenty men a day and a half."

Another officer described the scene at the main entrance of the Navy Yard.

"It was about 8 o'clock, during the earliest stage of the first attack," he said.

"Japanese planes were strafing and bombing Hickman Field (adjoining the Pearl Harbor area). I noticed a large crowd of yard employes going through the gate. One of the attacking planes, off from the rear, was shot down in flames in the yard area—in full view of all these people. Their cheers could be heard above the drone of the motors and machine-gun fire."

Soon after the Japanese bombing started, a call for all yard workmen was broadcast over Honolulu radio station.

"During the second attack, about 11 o'clock, the streets in the Navy Yard were thick with Japanese bombing yard workmen, all hurrying to their jobs," the officer said.

"Instead of running to cover, they ran to their jobs. Lots of them were shaking their fists in the air."

Other instances of courageous action by civilian and naval personnel of the Fifteenth Naval District were cited in a report from the commanding officer of the Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station on Windward Oahu.

"The station, located on the opposite side of the island from Pearl Harbor, was also subjected to Japanese air attack shortly before 8 a. m.," the report said.

"All of the civilians displayed extreme gallantry in their disregard of personal danger, and their attempts to help salvage aircraft and put out fires was commendable," the officer said. "They voluntarily undertook to repair electrical lines and water mains and the utilities of the station were out of commission only a short while."

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

We are making no rosy predictions for the coming year. America is at war. We are at war with the meanest bunch of cutthroats that ever banded together in the history of the world. They are going to stop at nothing in their efforts to destroy us because they know that if they lose they and everything they stand for will be destroyed.

In such a war, the going is bound to be tough for us. But if it hurts to give up many of the privileges and goods we have accorded in the past, we can remind ourselves that life under totalitarian rule would be a million times worse.

All of us must realize by now that we are fighting our own personal battle in this war. Our lives are at stake. Our way of life hangs in the balance.

In such a war, there is no half-measure. Every one of us must give all he is capable of giving. There can be no thought of sitting back and taking it easy and letting the other fellow do the sacrificing and risking.

Labor Takes the Lead

Labor, we are glad to say, is not sitting back. It is taking the lead. It is showing the American people by prompt and convincing action that the nation's army of workers can be depended upon in this critical emergency.

Scarcely had the echoes of the bombing of Pearl Harbor reached American shores, when the leaders of the American Federation of Labor got on the move. While Congress was still considering declarations of war against the Axis powers, President William Green sent out a summons for a special meeting of the Executive Council and an extraordinary convocation of the presidents of all affiliated international unions.

The Executive Council drew up a declaration on war labor policy which was sweeping, uncompromising and clear to everyone. On the following day, the officers of the American Federation of Labor and its constituent unions adopted a unanimous program which constituted a clarion call to the nation's service.

This program called for the utter defeat of the enemies of democracy; for all-out aid by labor to America and her allies; for no interruptions of production by strikes and lockouts, and for settlement of industrial disputes by peaceful means through the machinery of a War Labor Board.

The wisdom of this leadership was evidenced by the results. Within a few days, a conference of labor and industry representatives called by President Roosevelt reached agreement on a plan substantially the same as the one offered by the American Federation of Labor.

Enlisted For the Duration

As this is being written, President Roosevelt is about to name the new War Labor Board. The American Federation of Labor and its unions have pledged themselves to abide by its policies and decisions. They have voluntarily renounced the exercise of the right to strike during the war for any cause. They have enthusiastically dedicated themselves to the task of producing the implements of war in ever increasing amounts until America's enemies are crushed. They have enlisted for the duration of the war on the industrial front.

There can be no question that the five million rank and file members of the Federation will live up to the spirit and letter of labor's war commitments.

These men and women are the ones who have sent their sons and brothers and loved ones to fight in America's armed forces. They have read with pride of the gallant conduct of American workers when the Japanese attacked at Pearl Harbor, at Guam and at Wake. They will remember this every day and every waking minute of the day. They are giving their best efforts to this war. They will give their strength and their skill and their savings just as unhesitatingly.

The year ahead may not be a pleasant one. But we cannot escape a thrill of pride as we see a new spirit of unity developing in America, a readiness to forget old quarrels, a willingness to submerge selfish motives, an eagerness to pitch in and do the job. This spirit is the essence of America. It is invincible. May it wax in might and effectiveness during 1942 and teach the enemies of human decency a lesson that never will be forgotten in the memory of man!

A New Year's Message

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

Labor faces the New Year determined that nothing shall stand in the way of complete victory for America over the forces of barbarism and totalitarianism which have plunged the world into war.

The ranks of the American Federation of Labor are arrayed five million strong on the industrial front with but one thought in mind—that this war must be won as quickly as possible.

To that end the members of the American Federation of Labor will work to the limit of their endurance. They will produce the materials of war as the workers of no other nation have ever produced. They will cheerfully make every sacrifice the Government of our country calls upon them to make. And they will gladly set aside all that they can spare of their earnings for the purchase of defense bonds to help finance the war.

This is the program of all we of the American Federation of Labor have set for ourselves for the coming year.

To help make this program of all-out assistance to th tion's war effort effective, the leaders of the American Fede n of Labor have succeeded in working out an agreement with try barring strikes and lockouts for the duration of the w. We have pledged that all disputes will be settled by peaceful ans without interruption of production, through the medium of a War Labor Board.

The trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have promised the Government to supply all the skilled and unskilled labor necessary to carry out war preparations in every part of the nation. These unions are training thousands of new men in various skills to maintain this vital labor supply. In addition, they are purchasing defense bonds to the limit of their resources.

I am proud of the response of American Federation of Labor unions and their members to America's call for service and sacrifice. I know that in their hearts and minds they are united as never in America's history in the war.

This is America's war. It is labor's war. It is a war of free men against slavery.

In such a struggle, every one of us is eager to do his part and more.

We pray that this devastating war will be brought to a successful conclusion during the coming year. We pray that our sons and brothers and loved ones who are fighting the enemy on the battle fronts will come through safely. The loyal and courageous members of the American Federation of Labor will never let them down.

Buy Defense Bonds!

Washington, D. C.—President William Green appealed to all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and all their constituent members to do their bit to help America win the war by purchasing Defense Savings Stamps and Defense Bonds. His appeal follows:

"Each day brings home to every one of us the fact that a new emphasized of the fact that our country is at war. This situation has united all classes of people in our beloved country and has aroused within their hearts and minds a fixed and determined purpose to win the war at any cost. We know this objective must be reached if we are to preserve our form of government and enjoy the benefits and blessings of democracy, freedom and liberty.

"One of the greatest contributions which the individual can make toward the winning of the war is through the purchase of Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds. The Government has made it possible for all classes of people, regardless of income, to buy Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds. The American Federation of Labor has pledged the support of itself and its members to purchase Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds. This fact was emphasized at a meeting of the representatives of National and International Unions at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor on December 16, 1941. At said meeting the following declaration was adopted unanimously:

"'We pledge our support to the purchase of United States Savings Bonds and Stamps, and do everything we can to support that program.'

"Now I become one individual and collective duty to translate this declaration into action. The members of the American Federation of Labor and all their friends can do this. I appeal to you in the name and in behalf of the American Federation of Labor to use every dollar of earnings which you can spare in the purchase of Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds.

"In some localities arrangements are made for systematic buying, that is, that out of the earnings of the workers each pay day a certain amount is invested in Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds. I urge that plans be formulated which will make such a program and such a policy effective.

"I further urge that committees be appointed by each local organization, each central body, and all state federations of labor for the purpose of specializing in this work. These committees can render most effective service. Let them be the agencies through which the sale of Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds is promoted.

"It has been suggested that labor set as a part of its goal the purchase of Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds in an amount sufficient to replace the American battleships which were destroyed when the Japanese airplanes attacked Pearl Harbor and our Navy in the Pacific. This is what the United States can do this. They can place their money at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of building battleships, airplanes and a navy sufficiently strong to meet the urgent needs of the hour.

"I earnestly appeal to you to do your part, to do your bit, buy Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds as fully and as freely as you possibly can. The Government needs your help. Our future safety and the preservation of all we hold dear demand that you do so. Workers of America do not fail yourselves or the Government in our great hour of need! Measure up to the full demands and full requirements of the present situation. Show the world that the financial needs of our Government will be met in full measure. I appeal to you with all the power at my command to not only give your service to the Government but to make available for the use of the Government all the money you can spare. You can do this through the purchase of Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds."

Electricians Complete Blackout Preparations For New York City

New York City.—Adjustment of the 28,000 control boxes on New York's 250,000 street lights, so that they could be turned off immediately in the event of an air raid, was completed on time by some 1200 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3, who worked a breakneck speed without rest in the rain and sleet over the week end.

Most of the 28,000 control boxes scattered about in all the five boroughs contain automatic time switches that turn lights on automatically at dusk and turn them off at dawn. To make it possible for air-raid wardens to locate the boxes and operate them by hand in the event of a raid the electrical workers painted a luminous silver band across each lamp post and altered the internal apparatus so that it could be operated by hand.

Starting at 6 a. m. on Saturday, union members began volunteer work after completing all-night shifts as maintenance workers in the city's street lighting system, staying on the job in many cases for sixteen hours at a stretch.

Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., business manager of Local 3, said that the voluntary action of the electricians was in line with the union's policy of all-out aid to the defense authorities for the duration of the war.

A squad of 250 members of Local 3 have been assigned for black-out duty in the Times Square area so that it could be plunged into complete darkness in two minutes in the event of a raid.

The union also announced that its electrical trade school at 128 East 25th Street, Manhattan, was giving all of its 10,000 construction, maintenance and service members refresher courses in blackout techniques.

News Briefs

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE SUMMONED FOR JAN. 5

Washington, D. C.—A special meeting of the National Joint Legislative Conference of the American Federation of Labor and the Railroad Brotherhoods has been called for 10 a. m. Jan. 5 at AFL headquarters here to consider the proposed transfer of various Federal agencies from the nation's capital to other cities.

Senator Pat McCarran, chairman of the Senate District Committee, has been invited to attend the meeting and give his views to the conferees.

STRIKES ABSENT IN THREE WEEKS OF WAR

Washington, D. C.—During the first three weeks of the war the nation's defense production was unimpeded by strikes, reports of government agencies disclosed.

The only talkout to which newspaper headlines was one of a handful of welders in several West Coast shipyards, seeking formation of a "dual" union. Dispatches from the Coast said the strike was a "fizzle," with A. F. of L. unions living up to their closed shop contracts and supplying all workers needed. Federal troops were sent to some of the yards, but were withdrawn after a day.

$25,000,000 FOR DEFENSE BONDS VOTED BY I.L.G.W.

New York, N. Y.—The 300,000 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will buy $25,000,000 in defense bonds in the six months beginning Jan. 1, David Dubinsky, union president, announced.

Purchase of the bonds was authorized unanimously by a meeting of the union's general executive board. Mr. Dubinsky said that the purchase of the bonds would constitute the largest single block to be made anywhere by an organization of individuals in the history of America.

The union leader pledged that every union member will in the next six months contribute at least two weeks' wages toward the purchase of the bonds. The average wage of the union members is between $31 and $32 a week, which would make the average contribution at least $60. This would raise more than $18,000,000 and would be sufficient to pay for bonds that in ten years will mature with a value of $25,000,000.

LINDELOF RECOVERING FROM MAJOR OPERATION

L. P. Lindelof, president of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, is reported to be in a favorable condition following a major operation at Grace Hospital, Chicago. It is expected that Mr. Lindelof will be completely recovered within a few weeks.

NEW OFFICERS ANNOUNCED FOR INT'L LABOR PRESS

The International Labor Press of America held its annual meeting in Seattle in October during the A. F. L. convention and elected officers for the ensuing year. Under the constitution these officers take office on the first day of the new year. Owing to the death of Thomas Burke, third vice-president, which occurred during the meeting in Seattle, a referendum vote was taken among the executive board and Harvey E. Garman, editor of The Citizen of Los Angeles, California, was elected ninth vice-president to fill the vacancy.

The International Labor Press starts out the new year with a membership of 151 of the leading bona-fide labor papers of the United States and Canada.

Matthew Woll is president and R. E. Woodmansee, secretary-treasurer.

RED CROSS AID URGED BY GREEN

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor today officially endorsed the new Red Cross drive in the following statement:

"Our American Red Cross has ever been a tower of strength in time of national emergency, and we look to it today with confidence. In preparation for any calls that may be made, I am sure the President of the United States has approved an appeal to the public for the American Red Cross emergency war fund of $50,000,000.

"The American Federation of Labor and its affiliates always have been active supporters of the American Red Cross, and in this great national emergency I urge every union man and woman to answer this special appeal as generously as possible."

President To Name War Labor Board As Supreme Arbiter of Disputes

Green and Murray Confer With Secretary Perkins on Setup of New Body

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt will announce within a few days the appointment of a War Labor Board, clothed with supreme authority to give a square deal to workers and employers alike and to settle all industrial disputes by peaceful means for the duration of the war.

This program, first recommended by the American Federation of Labor, has been indorsed by the CIO and agreed to by representatives of American industry.

With unity and good will prevailing and with a patriotic determination on all sides to step up production to the limit so that America can win the war as quickly as possible, success of the new program is assured.

The thing for all American Federation of Labor members and their union representatives to remember is that strikes and lockouts are out for the duration of the war. All disputes must be settled by peaceful means. The moment the President creates the War Labor Board, proper machinery for the settlement of such disputes will be provided.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and President Philip Murray of the CIO conferred with Secretary of Labor Perkins for more than two hours and recommended a joint plan of procedure for the new board for submission to President Roosevelt.

While organized labor is renouncing the exercise of the right to strike during the war, the new board is expected to protect the rights of American workers by adhering to the following principles:

1—All workers are entitled to a wage sufficient to maintain full efficiency, good health and well-being for themselves and their families.

2—Policies established under the Labor Relations Act, the Wage-Hour Act and other existing labor statutes shall not be impaired.

3—Continuation of the normal procedures of collective bargaining on wages, hours, working conditions and union security will not be interfered with.

The final makeup of the War Labor Board and the manner in which it will operate have not yet been finally determined. Labor would prefer a nine-man board, made up of four industry representatives, four labor representatives and one public representative who would act as chairman. In this case, there is a possibility that three or four public representatives may be named.

Disputes, which cannot be resolved by the normal course of collective bargaining, will be submitted to conciliation, mediation or voluntary arbitration. Full use will be made of the machinery of the U. S. Conciliation Service, now acting under the Department of Labor and under the direction of Dr. John Steelman.

Final adjustment of all disputes will be sought within a time limit of thirty days to assure prompt justice.

One of the brightest aspects of the entire situation is the almost certain prospect that all anti-labor legislation now pending in Congress is doomed. Except for a few die-hard labor-baiters in and out of Congress, there is agreement in all quarters that such legislation if enacted now would only cause trouble and prevent the smooth operation of the nation's industrial machine. Labor's willingness to make sacrifices and to give all-out assistance to the nation's war effort is greatly appreciated by President Roosevelt and Government leaders generally.

A Fine Example!

Washington, D. C.—Hail to the Envelope Makers Federal Union No. 20311, of Dayton, O.!

This comparatively small organization, which has sent some of its members to the nation's armed services and has purchased $1,000 worth of defense bonds from its meager treasury, has now sent to President Roosevelt a check for $1,000, the money to be used by the Government for the defense of our country.

"We hope in our small way to inspire others to an all out effort and thus insure the democracy of the United States of America and the freedom of the world," wrote George Winget, president of the AFL union.

The check was presented to Mr. Roosevelt by President William Green, who expressed his pride in the union's action. The President, Mr. Green said, "was deeply moved by the contribution and promised to write him-self to the union, thanking its members.

MUNITIONS WORKERS OPEN ORGANIZATION DRIVE

Washington, D. C.—One of the smaller and lesser known AFL national unions—the United Powder and High Explosive Workers—has now become one of the key agencies in the national defense program. It has doubled its membership in the last six months and its organization drive has expanded to such an extent that it needs the assistance of other AFL organizations to do the job right.

Verne Nash, secretary of the union, therefore calls upon volunteer organizers and central bodies in all parts of the country where ex-plosives, powder, shells and other types of ammunition are manufactured to help the organization drive. He assures the union's full cooperation in all such efforts.

The United Powder and High Explosive Workers recently signed the first union shop agreement in the history of the munitions industry with the National Munitions Company, Eldred, Pa., covering 1,000 workers. The union's headquarters are at Shelburne, Ind.

BOOKBINDERS' PRESIDENT LAUDED AS LABOR LEADER

Chicago, Ill.—In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the progress of organized labor, the friends of John B. Haggerty, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, recently held a testimonial banquet in his honor at the Palmer House.

John Haggerty was warmly praised for his successful efforts over a quarter of a century to advance the objectives of organized labor in the printing trades industry.

Outstanding speakers at the banquet included George B. Gannett, president, George D. Barnard and Com-missioner Printing Personnel and Assistants Union of North America; Judge J. Raymond Tiffany, president, Book Manufacturers Institute; Otis H. Johnson, president, United Typothetae of America, and I. M. Ornburn, secretary, Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor.

Tune In To Special Broadcast, "United America Looks Ahead"

Washington, D. C.—All members of the American Federation of Labor are urged to listen to a special broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System from 8 to 8:45 p. m. Sunday night, Jan. 4, during which President William Green will outline labor's program for 1942.

The program will be a symposium of opinion from labor, industry and Government representatives entitled "United America Looks Ahead to 1942."

Among the other speakers will be Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson, Assistant Secretary of War Navy Ralph Bard, Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt, Donald Nelson of OPM, Coordinator Nelson Rockefeller of the Office of Inter-American Affairs, President Albert W. Hawkes of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and President Philip Murray of the CIO.